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Senate

The Senate met at 9:10 a.m., and was called to order by the President pro tempore [Mr. THURMOND].

The PRESIDENT pro tempore. Today's prayer will be offered by guest Chaplain Rabbi Mell Hecht, Temple Beth Am, Las Vegas, NV, a guest of Senator HARRY REID.

We are pleased to have you with us.

PRAYER

The guest Chaplain, Rabbi Mell Hecht, Temple Beth Am, Las Vegas, NV, offered the following prayer:

Let us pray.

Heavenly Lord of us all, You have taught us the necessity of governing by law, yet we have also learned that law is meant to be in the service of humanity, not humanity to law, for just as Your law helps in Tikkun Olam, in the repair of a broken world, so should our law help mend the broken spirits and broken places of our land. In the process of fulfilling such a mandate, the collective ethic which permeates this American experiment of ours has come to oppose slavery in any form, including slavery to those laws, policies, or procedures which may no longer speak to the challenges of our time and circumstance.

We are about to embark on a journey through another century, so we ask, Lord, may we approach the turn of our century in the same spirit that our Founding Fathers and mothers approached theirs, by believing in our hearts, as Thomas Paine advised, that we have it in our power to begin the world over again, to which we add: To make it infinitely better than it was before we entered it, to build toward an even greater freedom and justice in ways never dreamed of before, and to embrace those of our citizens who have yet to share in liberty's bounty, as is their inalienable right.

We pray, therefore, that our deliberations and decisions transcend the limits of political concerns to evolve statutes and ordinances, laws and com-

mandments which serve the people and provide for the humanity. May they be laws which enhance justice and which help to establish an everlasting peace both within the hearts of as well as among the inhabitants of our land.

May future generations look back upon the work fostered and initiated by us who will be their ancestors as we have looked to and built upon the accomplishments of our Founding Fathers and mothers. May they come to praise us for expanding their freedom, their liberty, their opportunity for material and spiritual well-being, bringing ever nearer the longed-for day of Thy kingdom on Earth. In whatever name we pray, let us say Amen.

The PRESIDING OFFICER (Mr. HUTCHINSON). The Senator from Nevada.

Mr. REID. Mr. President, I ask unanimous consent I be allowed to speak out of order and my time not be charged against the Senator from Texas for her 20 minutes.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Without objection, it is so ordered.

RABBI MELL HECHT

Mr. REID. Mr. President, I am very happy today to welcome to the Senate and Washington, DC, Rabbi Mell Hecht. I do this on my behalf and that of Senator BRYAN from Nevada.

I have been in the presence of Rabbi Hecht on joyous occasions, bar mitzvahs and bat mitzvahs, and also sad occasions where he has spoken at funerals. Rabbi Hecht is truly one of the spiritual leaders of the Greater Las Vegas area and the State of Nevada. That is why I was very happy to be responsible for his giving the prayer to open this session of the Senate.

Rabbi Mell Hecht is really a community builder. He is an active leader in our religious community and as a result of his being active in our religious community with his spiritual leadership this has certainly flowed over into

the rest of the community. He is deeply concerned about the community of man. He is an outspoken advocate for human rights. He has worked for peace in many different aspects of our society.

Rabbi Hecht has a great academic background. He has a bachelor of arts degree from the University of Miami in Florida. He has done some of his undergraduate work at the Hebrew University in Jerusalem, Israel. He completed his bachelor of Hebrew letters and master of Hebrew letters at the Cincinnati Union College where he was ordained a rabbi. He has been an Army chaplain and race relations officer in Germany. He served as chairman of the Humana Sunrise Pastoral Care Council, the National Conference of Christians and Jews, Nevada Clergy Against Drug and Alcohol Abuse, and the Jewish Federation Community Relations Committee. He has been on the boards of numerous civic and charitable organizations. He has recently received his doctor of divinity degree from Hebrew Union College in California.

Mr. President, again, it is with a great deal of honor and pleasure that I welcome one of Nevada's spiritual leaders, Rabbi Mell Hecht, to the Senate.

RESERVATION OF LEADER TIME

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Under the previous order the leadership time is reserved.

The Senator from Texas is recognized.

SCHEDULE

Mrs. HUTCHISON. Mr. President, on behalf of the majority leader, this morning the Senate will resume consideration of H.R. 2107, the Interior appropriations bill, with me being recognized regarding my amendment on the NEA. Following 20 minutes of debate on that amendment, the Senate will vote on or in relation to that NEA amendment. Therefore, Senators can

• This "bullet" symbol identifies statements or insertions which are not spoken by a Member of the Senate on the floor.



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